

“Expanding broadband to rural communities is a win for the local economy, small businesses and families in rural Fresno County,” Costa said. “It is estimated that nearly 80 jobs will be created to build, support, manage and install the new infrastructure. Also, small businesses on the West Side will have greater and more dependable access to the Internet to solicit business from around the region and across the country. I am looking forward to seeing the results of this grant.”

The funds were awarded to Audeamus, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sebastian Enterprises, Inc., which is a parent company of Kerman Telephone Company. Audeamus estimates this broadband project will help the unemployment rate in West Fresno County and provide new economic, medical, telemedicine and educational opportunities that quality broadband access makes possible.

Funds were made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help bring broadband services to rural and un-served and underserved communities across the nation.